

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 00158 050734Z

13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01

/130 W

----- 024509

R 041448Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8837

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 0158

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: JANUARY 2 MAHARASHTRA BANDH

FOLLOWING TEL BOMBAY 0016 DATED JAN 3, 1974 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

P R 031008Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO RUSBAY/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 8516

INFO RUSBTA/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 1494

RUSBAS/AMCONSUL MADRAS 1520

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0016

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: JAN 2 MAHARASHTRA BANDH

REF: BOMBAY 0004

1. MAHARASHTRA BANDH TOTAL IN BOMBAY JAN 2 AND REPORTS THAT WE
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HAVE GATHER FROM THROUGHOUT STATES THUS FAR INDICATE A SIMILAR

RESPONSE. FIRST TIME A BANDH HAS RECEIVED SUPPORT OF THIS ORDER OF MAGNITUDE IN MAHARASHTRA AND IT A MASSIVE REMINED TO MRS. GANDHI OF THE RAPIDLY MOUNTING LEVEL OF ECONOMIC DISTRESS AND DISCONTENT OF THE POORER CLASSES.

2. HIGH POINT OF DANDH WAS PERHAPS MRS. GANDHI'S EXPERIENCE AT NAGPUR. OUR CONTACTS WITH TIMES OF INDIA AND INDIAN EXPRESS TODAY (THERE WERE NO MORNING PAPERS) CONFIRM PTI REPORTS OF THE INTERRUPTION OF MRS. GANDHI'S PUBLIC ADDRESS AT NAGPUR BY THE CROWD WHO THREW THEIR SHOES AT HER AND FORCED HER TO STOP SPEAKING AND TO LEAVE UNDER POLICE PROTECTION. THE DISTURBANCE APPARENTLY BEGAN WHEN SHE MADE REFERENCE TO THE FOOD SITUATION. CHIEF MIN NAIK WAS UNABLE TO QUIET THE CROWD. (WE'VE COME A LONG WAY SINCE 1971/1972).

3. SIX PERSONS WERE KILLED AND THREE INJURED AT WANI, 60 KILO-METERS EAST OF YEOTMW WHERE POLICE OPENED FIRE TO QUELL MOB VIOLENCE.

4. THE RESPONSE TO THE BANDH WAS TOTAL IN AND AROUND POONA MAHARASHTRA'S SECOND LARGEST INDUSTRIAL CENTER. DR. KULKARNI OF THE CONGEN WAS THERE THROUGHOUT BANDH. ACCORDING LATTER, LEFTIST TRADE UNION LEADERS AT RALLIES WERE CALLING FOR THE END BY VIOLENCE IF NECESSARY OF THE "CORRUPT INDIAN DEMOCRACY AND RIDICULING CONGRESS LEADERSHIP INCLUDING MRS GANDHI.

5. COMMENT; HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO COMMENT APPENDED TO REFTTEL. WILL REPORT FURTHER AS MORE DETAILS OBTAINED.
BANE UNQUOTE
MOYNIHAN

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Type: TE
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